

A black and white photograph of three people in a manufacturing environment. A man on the left, a woman in the center, and a man on the right wearing safety glasses are all looking down at a small object held by the man on the right. They are wearing dark work shirts. The background shows industrial equipment and a clock on the wall.

Industry Profiles 2016

Manufacturing Industry

Alberta
Government

OVERVIEW

The Manufacturing industry¹ in Alberta includes establishments involved in:

- food manufacturing;
- beverage and tobacco product manufacturing;
- textile, textile product mills and clothing manufacturing;
- petroleum and coal products manufacturing;
- chemical, plastics and rubber manufacturing;
- computer and electronic products manufacturing; and
- other manufacturing.

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¹ North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) 2007 groups 311 and 339

SECTION A

BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

1. 2015 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates

Table 1

	Alberta	Manufacturing Industry
Employment	2,301,100	139,900
Employment Share	N/A	6.1%
Unemployment	148,000	8,000
Unemployment rate	6.0%	5.4%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2015

Note: Note: N/A denotes not-applicable. Employment share is obtained by dividing the number of employment in this industry by total employment in Alberta.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics² website or Statistics Canada³.

2. Industry's Growth

- The Manufacturing industry accounted for 6.1% of total employment in Alberta in 2015.
- Employment in this industry is expected to grow at an average rate of 1.1% from 2016 to 2019⁴.
- The industry is expected to account for 6.5% of total employment in Alberta in 2016.

For more information, see the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)⁵ website for descriptions of industries.

² See <http://work.alberta.ca/labour/labour-force-statistics-and-annual-reviews.html>

³ See <http://www.statcan.gc.ca>

⁴ Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2015 – 2019, Industry Employment Outlook

⁵ See <http://www.alis.alberta.ca>

3. Facts, Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Manufacturing industry accounted for approximately 5.9% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2015, down from 7.8% in 2005. Its contribution to Alberta's total employment declined from 7.4% in 2005 to 6.1% in 2015.

Total employment (the total number of employees and self-employed people, 15 years and over) in 2015 was 3.2% lower than its level in 2014. Over the last 10 years, employment increased by 5,500 from 2005, a 4.1% increase. There were 139,900 employed in the industry in 2015, of whom 95.3% were full time and 4.7% were part time.

Table 2

Characteristic	Alberta	Manufacturing
Median Retirement Age (years)	64.3	60.3
Average Number of Hours Worked per Week	36.9	39.5
Multiple Jobholders (% of total employment)	5.6%	3.8%
Average Job Tenure (months)	88.8	86.3
Employees Under Union Coverage (%)	19.7%	17.9%
Employees Working Overtime per Week (%)	17.2%	22.3%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Tables 282-0022, 282-0031, 282-0042, 282-0078 and 282-0084, 2015, and custom tabulation (median retirement age)

Note: The percentage of multiple jobholders is obtained by dividing the number of multiple jobholders by total employment. This calculation method also applies to the percentage of employees under union coverage and the percentage of employees working overtime per week.

4. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry

Table 3

Establishment Size	Businesses in Alberta		Businesses in Manufacturing	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	686,000	35.6%	36,400	27.7%
20 to 99 employees	699,000	36.2%	44,300	33.7%
100 to 500 employees	345,700	17.9%	40,500	30.8%
More than 500 employees	195,500	10.1%	10,100	7.7%

Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0076, 2015

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

SECTION B

HUMAN RESOURCES PROFILE

1. Occupational Information

Some examples of occupations in the Manufacturing industry include:

- meat cutter;
- machinist;
- manufacturing engineer;
- sawmill machine operator; and
- instrument technician.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles⁶ website.

2. Demographics: Gender and Age

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Manufacturing industry in 2015 was as follows:

- women employed: 35,000 people, or 25.0%
- men employed: 104,900 people, or 75.0%

Overall in Alberta, women accounted for 45.1% and men made up 54.9% of total employment (for all industries).

Table 4

Age Characteristics	Employment in Alberta		Employment in Manufacturing	
	Number	%*	Number	%*
15-24 years	320,300	13.9%	10,900	7.8%
25-54 years	1,551,700	67.4%	104,100	74.4%
55 years and over	429,100	18.6%	25,000	17.9%

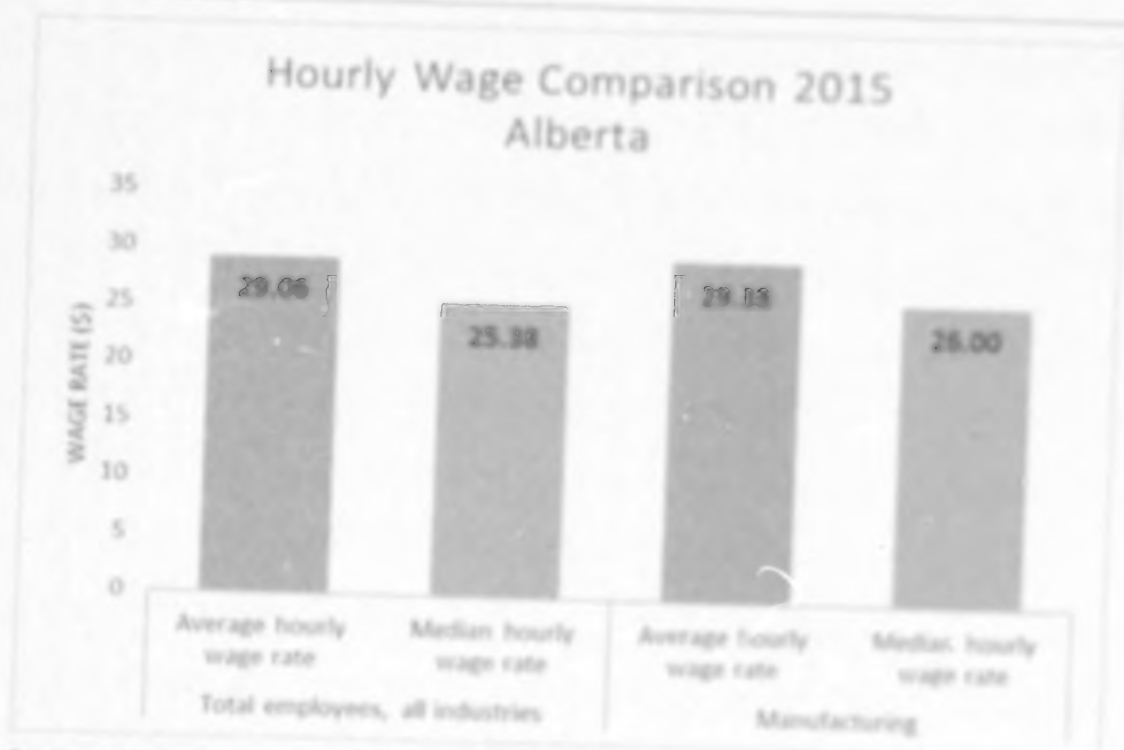
Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 282-0008, 2015

*Percentages may not add up 100 due to rounding.

⁶ See <http://occinfo.alis.alberta.ca/occinfopreview>

3. Wages and Salaries

Chart 1



Data Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey, CANSIM Table 280-0012, 2015

Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Table 5

Occupation	Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting	Detail	Top	
Industrial engineer	\$31.56	\$40.27	\$52.84	\$85,480
Manufacturing manager	\$36.82	\$50.43	\$75.87	\$106,440
Industrial instrument technician and mechanics	\$30.10	\$36.08	\$40.75	\$78,460
Machinist	\$11.72	\$29.64	\$35.28	\$62,470

Data Source: 2025 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on the 2025 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey, refer to the [2025 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey](https://www.alberta.ca/2025-alberta-wage-and-salary-survey) website. For job descriptions, duties, skills and educational requirements of specific occupations in the Manufacturing industry, visit the [ALSP](https://www.alberta.ca/2025-alberta-wage-and-salary-survey) website.

¹ See <https://www.alberta.ca/2025-alberta-wage-and-salary-survey>

² See <https://www.alberta.ca/2025-alberta-wage-and-salary-survey>

SECTION C

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Links to Industry Associations

- Atlantic Food Processors Association
<http://www.afpa.com>
- Bakers Association of Canada
<http://www.bakers.ca>
- Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council
<http://www.cpecc.ca>
- Canadian Plastics Industry Association
<http://www.plastics.ca>
- Canadian Textile Association
<http://www.canatext.ca>
- Canadian Machinery and Metal Working Magazine
<http://www.canadianmachinery.com>
- Canadian Manufacturers and Exporters
<http://www.cme.ca>

Call us or visit our website for more information or to find the following publications:

- 2011 Annual Alberta Labour Market Review
- Monthly Alberta Labour Force Statistics Highlights and Forecasts
- Alberta's Occupational Demand and Supply Outlook
- Alberta Labour Force Profiles
- Alberta Industry Profiles

www.alberta.ca/labour-market (see Labour Market Information) or

in Edmonton: 780-422-8766

Long Distance: 1-800-393-3752

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